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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7412

BILL NUMBER: SB 536

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 11, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Various Election Law Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lawson C

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Voter Registration Applications-* The bill provides that a voter registration application received in person or by mail by the Election Division (ED), or an absentee ballot application received by the ED, is timely filed if the ED receives the application before the deadline established for a county to receive the application. The bill requires the ED to forward the application promptly to the county where the applicant resides.

Absent Uniformed Services and Overseas Voters- The bill provides that an absentee ballot application received from an absent uniformed services voter, an overseas voter, or an address confidentiality program participant is valid for the period that ends on December 31 after the filing of the application (rather than 12 months after the date of the application).

Central Count Absentee Ballots- The bill requires that all absentee ballots be counted at a central location.

Absentee Ballots and Election Day- The bill provides that a voter who casts an absentee ballot before election day may not vote in person on election day.

Absentee Votes and Satellite Offices- The bill provides that the office of the circuit court clerk (clerk) that is considered the clerk's primary office is the location at which a voter is entitled to cast an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board. The bill provides that the office of the board of elections and registration (board) in Lake County that is considered the board's primary office is the location at which a voter is entitled to cast an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board. The bill provides that all other locations at which the clerk or the board has an office must be established as satellite offices in order to be used as locations at which a voter is entitled to cast an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board.

Repealers- The bill repeals provisions that: (1) have been superseded concerning an absentee ballot application filed by an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter; (2) require the counting of absentee ballots by precinct election boards at the polls on election day; and (3) allow voters who cast an absentee ballot to vote in person under certain circumstances on election day.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Voter Registration Applications-* This provision would require the Election Division to forward on absentee voter ballot applications received by the ED to the appropriate county voter registration office. Any additional postage used to forward applications would likely minimally impact ED expenditures.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Absent Uniformed Services and Overseas Voters-* This provision would change the date that a person that is an absentee uniformed service member, overseas, or in the address confidentiality program could apply for an absentee ballot from after November 20 to December 1 in a given year. Absentee ballot applications for these persons would essentially be valid for a year and a month (from December 1 of the prior year through December 31 of a primary, general, or special election year.) County election officials may have to slightly adjust their administrative workload to accommodate this provision.

Central Count Absentee Ballots- All counties would have to count absentee ballots at a central location (likely the county election board office). Those counties that currently do not use absentee ballot counters would have to appoint them. The county election board appoints absentee ballot counters under the county option central count statute. Absentee ballot counters are allowed a per diem as set by the county executive and a mileage allowance as set by the county fiscal body. Additionally, some minor administrative changes would have to be made in counties that do not have central county absentee ballots.

Absentee Votes and Satellite Offices- County clerks and the Lake County board director would have to have unanimous approval of their county election boards to have more than one physical location for absentee voting in elections after the effective date of the bill. The provision would minimally impact local expenditures.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards, voter registration offices.

Information Sources:

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